REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4, 5, 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter.

II. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6-9, and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 7,362,597 (hereinafter "Ishikawa"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is well settled that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. See MPEP § 2131. Despite the Office Action's assertions, Ishikawa does not teach each and every feature presently recited in claim 1.

One aspect of the subject matter recited in claim 1 is to allow the maximum AC power output to an external source utilizing voltage efficiently. To achieve this objective, claim 1 presently recites, in part, that a "control device controls said first and second inverters in coordination such that an intermediate value between a maximum value and a minimum value of voltage controls for said first and second motor generators is equivalent to an intermediate potential of said input voltage." According to the presently claimed combination of features, generation of voltage controls from the first and second inverters that exceed the voltage controllable range of the first and second inverters (i.e. the voltage range from the potential of the negative electrode side to the potential of the positive electrode side of the input voltage of the first and second inverters) is suppressed to the minimum. Consequently, maximum AC power can be generated with little distortion and output to an external AC

load. Ishikawa fails to disclose or render obvious the above-quoted features presently recited in claim 1. Rather, Ishikawa merely discloses controlling the neutral point potential of each of inverters 20 and 30 centered about voltage $V_m/2$. This feature in Ishikawa is analogous to controlling first and second inverters to generate an AC voltage across neutral points. This feature, however, fails to disclose the coordination of the first and second inverters "such that an intermediate value between a maximum value and a minimum value voltage controls for said first and second motor generators is equivalent to an intermediate potential of said input voltage."

Ishikawa does not disclose or render obvious the control of first and second inverters 20 and 30 in coordination such that the intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value of voltage controls for motor generators MG1 and MG2 is equivalent to an intermediate potential ($V_m/2$) of the input voltage. Controlling the neutral point potential of each inverter centered about voltage $V_m/2$ will cause the balance between the maximum voltage applied to each motor generator to be disturbed, leading to distortion in the AC power as a result of a maximum voltage exceeding the voltage upper limit (system voltage). Thus, Ichikawa does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-14 variously depend from claim 1. Because Ichikawa fails to teach, disclose or suggest the features recited in independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-14 are patentable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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